CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

Please **amend** Claims 13, 16 and 19 as indicated:

1-12. (cancelled)

13.   (currently amended)   A computer comprising:

a processor;

a memory having a memory address space, the memory address space comprising a stored program, the stored program including a power-on-self-test (POST);

a first input device operatively connected to the processor;

an adapter read-only-memory (ROM) located in certain blocks of the memory address space;

a control associated with the POST for preventing an input from the first input device during the POST to prevent user inputs from entering the memory;

a security signature in the adapter ROM for identifying if the first input device may temporarily accept a user input;

a ROM security routine for determining if user input is required and further including a test for user authorization;

an indicator stored in the memory for permitting a user input during at least a portion of the POST, with the processor responding to the indicator and allowing a user input at the input device during POST by at least temporarily overriding the control preventing a user input during the POST if the user successfully satisfies the authorization test; and

a second input device operatively connected to a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port in the computer, wherein the second input device is selectively locked out [[only if]] during the POST, and wherein the second input device being selectively locked out is dependent on the first input device [[is]] being prevented from inputting a signal during the POST.

14.   (previously presented) The computer of claim 13, wherein the first input device is a keyboard communicating with the computer via a dedicated keyboard port.

15.   (previously presented) The computer of claim 14, wherein the keyboard is a PS/2 keyboard.

16.   (currently amended)   A method comprising:
disabling, via a first mechanism, a dedicated keyboard coupled to a dedicated keyboard port of a computer while a Power-On-Self-Test (POST) is executing in the computer; and
in response to the dedicated keyboard being disabled, disabling, via a second mechanism, a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port on the computer, wherein the USB port is selectively disabled during the POST, and wherein the selectively disabling of the USB port is dependent on the dedicated keyboard being prevented from inputting a signal during the POST.

17.   (previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising monitoring the USB port for an enabling password, the enabling password permitting the dedicated keyboard to be re-enabled.

18.   (previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising monitoring the USB port for an enabling password, the enabling password permitting the USB port to be re-enabled.

19.   (currently amended)   A computer comprising:
a first mechanism for disabling a dedicated keyboard coupled to a dedicated keyboard port of the computer; and
a second mechanism for disabling a Universal Serial Bus (USB) compliant keyboard coupled to the computer via a USB port, wherein the USB compliant keyboard is selectively locked out [[only in response to]] during a Power On Self-Test (POST), and wherein the USB compliant keyboard is selectively locked out as dependent on the dedicated keyboard being disabled during the POST.

20.   (previously presented) The computer of claim 19, further comprising a keyboard sensing switch for monitoring the USB port for an enabling password, the enabling password permitting the dedicated keyboard to be re-enabled.

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21.   (previously presented)The computer of claim 19, further comprising a keyboard sensing switch for monitoring the USB port for an enabling password, the enabling password permitting the USB port to be re-enabled.